I've been following the news about the practices of ISPs for some time. I am a technology consultant and work with network and network problems as a career. I am also a current Comcast broadband subscriber. I am also an Insight broadband subscriber at a different address.

I can tell you for a fact that the "network shaping" or network management that these companies employ affects more than just P2P traffic. I rarely ever, if ever use P2P applications and I noticed significant network impact from both companies.

I have spent weeks worth of my time over the course of a few years testing my broadband connection at both locations. While I have found actual throughput to be pretty consistent, the latency is where the problem is. These tools affect how a packed gets from one location to the next and the time it takes to get from one location to the next is latency. It seems that at every point along Comcast's network the latency has increased significantly over the last couple of years. Not to mention weekly downtime.

Logically, how can an application that scans and prioritizes every packet NOT affect all traffic? It may be transparent to the user because we don't have to do anything to receive the ill effects of such practices but I think our service has been slowly eroding. Comcast has a unique way of hiding it; Speedboost. This gives the end user the appearance of additional speed and covers up the latency issue they have built into their network.

I am not a happy Comcast subscriber but my choices are so limited that I feel handcuffed to the service.

The other question I would ask is "where does it stop"? Given the opportunity and knowing they are the only player in town, I'm sure Comcast will continue to make consumer unfriendly decisions as long as they can make a money from it. Please take your time and investigate as I know no one that is particularly happy with Comcast's service.